

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Ag84 Pro
Cop. 2

#671

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

SEP 21 1960

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

SHARING OUR
KNOWLEDGE
OF
AGRICULTURE
WITH OTHER
NATIONS

International Agricultural Development Service
United States Department of Agriculture—PA-671



Food is the basic need for human life. Yet of all the people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, 85 percent have inadequate or unsuitable food for good health. Over 1.5 billion people in these areas of the world are undernourished.

By the end of the century the number of people living in these regions is expected to more than double. To feed them—an increase of nearly 3 billion people—the less developed countries will need as much additional food as is now produced by all the farmers in the world.

In the past, the simplest way to boost food production was to open new land for cultivation. But land is becoming scarce. India, for example, hopes to increase farm lands only 0.2 percent per year while its population is expected to increase more than 2.0 percent—10 times as fast.

Clearly, food production can keep pace with the rapid growth in population only if farmers in these countries can raise their food output per acre. This requires widespread know-how of modern agricultural production—know-how which most of the developing countries do not now have.

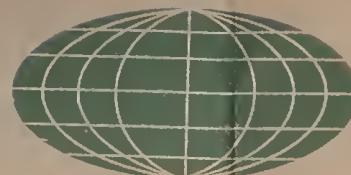
In the tradition of the American farmer to “lend a hand” to his neighbor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is cooperating with the Agency for International Development and other organizations in sharing with these countries our great wealth of agricultural knowledge.

AGRICULTURE—

The Starting Point For Development

Most developing nations are “rural nations.” From 60 to 80 percent of the people live in rural areas and earn their living from the land. Many rural families need all of the produce from their meager plots just to meet their minimum food needs. Cash income is very small—in poor crop years it may be nonexistent.





Sharing Agricultural Know-How Through Technical Assistance and Training

Food is the basic need for human life. Yet of all the people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, 85 percent have inadequate or unsuitable food for good health. Over 1.5 billion people in these areas of the world are undernourished.

By the end of the century the number of people living in these regions is expected to more than double. To feed them—an increase of nearly 3 billion people—the less developed countries will need as much additional food as is now produced by all the farmers in the world.

In the past, the simplest way to boost food production was to open new land for cultivation. But land is becoming scarce. India, for example, hopes to increase farm lands only 0.2 percent per year while its population is expected to increase more than 2.0 percent—10 times as fast.

Clearly, food production can keep pace with the rapid growth in population only if farmers in these countries can raise their food output per acre. This requires widespread know-how of modern agricultural production—know-how which most of the developing countries do not now have.

In the tradition of the American farmer to "lend a hand" to his neighbor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is cooperating with the Agency for International Development and other organizations in sharing with these countries our great wealth of agricultural knowledge.

AGRICULTURE—

The Starting Point For Development

Most developing nations are "rural nations." From 60 to 80 percent of the people live in rural areas and earn their living from the land. Many rural families need all of the produce from their meager plots just to meet their minimum food needs. Cash income is very small—in poor crop years it may be nonexistent.

In many developing countries production from agriculture represents close to half of the gross national product (Nigeria 60 percent, Ecuador 37 percent, Pakistan 50 percent). And it often supplies three-fourths or more of all their exports.

Rural people in these countries are the greatest source of labor to help build national industries. But fewer farmers means each one must produce still more food. Rural areas offer the best market for a country's stepped-up production of manufactured goods. But this requires higher farm incomes to enable rural people to buy.

To improve living conditions for the greatest number of people, to build strong economies and stable governments, the developing countries must give primary attention to progress in agriculture.

Building Future Markets

Hungry people in these countries want many of the products of American farmers. In the first 10 years of our Food for Peace Program under P.L. 480, \$15.4 billion worth of U.S. farm products were shipped abroad.

They want U.S. fiber, too. While the average American uses over 20 pounds of cotton a year, for example, the average in developing nations is less than 2 pounds.

These people would buy more U.S. farm products if they could. Only the limitation of inadequate cash resources stands in their way. As incomes go up, imports of U.S. farm products climb rapidly. If the average annual income of individuals in developing nations could be increased only \$100, their imports of U.S. farm products would likely go up more than \$1.5 billion each year.

But such economic growth depends on progress in agricultural development. This is the close tie between agricultural technical assistance and expanded agricultural trade. As the United States helps these

nations strengthen their agriculture they will be able to increase their purchases of U.S. agricultural products.

Using USDA Resources

Through its more than 100 years of service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has acquired much knowledge and experience that is vitally important to agricultural progress in developing countries—know-how in agricultural economics, supervised credit, agricultural research, marketing systems, and soil and water conservation programs. Such know-how is what many countries lack and USDA has to share.

To use effectively the many resources of the Department of Agriculture, the **International Agricultural Development Service** was established in 1963. IADS has the task of coordinating the Department's programs of international technical assistance and training. It evaluates requests, helps draw up plans for filling them, and then assists in carrying them out.

IADS is the agency in USDA responsible for mobilizing specialized assistance from all USDA agencies. It works closely with the Agency for International Development and maintains close liaison with land-grant universities, international organizations, foundations, and other private institutions also providing agricultural assistance abroad.

Offering Technical Guidance

Over 150 USDA specialists are now offering technical advice and guidance to governments of over 20 countries. About half of these specialists are members of resident teams which are assisting on many fronts of agricultural development—forestry, agricultural economics, cooperatives, extension, research, credit, conservation.



Resident technicians are assigned to countries for two years or more where they work with members of U.S. AID Missions. Some specialists are making scientific searches for solutions to the critical blocks to development. Others are seeking solutions to insect and livestock disease problems which hold back production. Some USDA specialists are on such emergency assignments as directing forest fire-fighting or seeking ways to help stabilize farm prices.

IADS and other USDA agencies carefully study each request for assistance to find how the Department can most effectively and efficiently help. Often, at a country's request, a team of specialists is sent to the country to make an on-the-scene evaluation. Based on the team's observations and recommendations, IADS advises AID what help can be provided without unduly impairing domestic programs.

Agreements with AID to provide USDA assistance enable agencies of the Department of Agriculture to send their own specialists. This eliminates need for a separate technical assistance corps. More important, it means USDA technicians working overseas continue to serve as members of their own USDA agency and can call upon it for support. Top professional men can be assigned abroad and, when necessary, sent quickly. This puts the full resources and experience of the U.S. Department of Agriculture behind each advisor working in a developing country. At the same time, it benefits U.S. agriculture through new and useful experiences for USDA's personnel.



Training a Technical Corps

A major hindrance to agricultural progress in developing nations is the small number of individuals technically trained in agricultural skills.

Each year over 4,000 technicians, scientists, and leaders from other countries are brought to the United States for training in agriculture. Equipping them with new agricultural skills and knowledge is a major part of USDA's technical assistance to developing nations.

These individuals have, or will have, strategic roles in the development of their countries. They are selected carefully on a cooperative basis by their government and U.S. technicians working in their countries. About half are sent by the Agency for International Development. Others are sponsored by private foundations, the United Nations, and other governments.

Their U.S. training in agriculture is conducted by such specialists as county agricultural and home demonstration agents, soil conservation technicians, farmer cooperative managers, researchers, administrators, and forest rangers. Many attend special short courses, and workshops conducted by universities, USDA, or U.S. business firms. A number of these agriculturists enroll in university courses along with American students. In addition to technical training, these key individuals from developing nations learn much about American people, the American way of life, and the environment in which our agricultural industry operates.



"In the years ahead, if the developing countries are to continue to grow, they must rapidly enlarge their capacity to provide food for their people. Up to a point, they can and should improve their ability to buy some of their food from abroad. For the most part, however, they must expand and diversify their own production of food.

"To meet their needs for food, the developing countries need help. We in the United States are uniquely equipped to give it. We must use our agricultural abundance and our extensive technical skills to assist the less developed countries to strengthen their ability both to produce and to buy agricultural commodities and, more generally, to support rural development. We can and must mount a more comprehensive program of technical assistance in agriculture engaging the United States Department of Agriculture, our state universities and land-grant colleges, and the most creative of our people in agriculture, marketing and industry.

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON



Issued July 1965

* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1965 O - 783-246



INTERNATIONAL

MANAGEMENT SERVICES
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
W. A. MINOR

INFORMATION SERVICES
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
EDWARD KOENIG

STAFF ASSISTANT

CREDIT, COOPERATIVES and MARKETING
RALPH U. BATTLES

ASST. to 1

AD
V

LATIN-AMERICA AREA

REGIONAL COORDINATOR
A. J. NICHOLS

PROGRAM ANALYST
MARTIN KRIESBERG

BRAZIL OFFICER
FRED A. THOMPSON

ASIA AREA

REGIONAL COORDINATOR
EUGENE T. RANSUM

CENTRAL AMERICA OFFICER
MARSHAL C. FOX



INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture

